†196. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drought problem has put a question mark on Government's plan to implement Food Security Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of card holders under Public Distribution System at present in the country and the items provided to the card holders under Antyodaya Anna Yojana; and

(d) the future of food security law in the scenario of shortage of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Presently, under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) allocation of foodgrains is made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, (including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families), on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimates of the Planning Commission projected on the population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 01.03.2000. However, as reported by State/ Union Territory Governments by 31.10.2009, ration cards issued by the State / Union Territory Governments to BPL, AAY and Above Poverty Line (APL) categories are as follows:-

(figures in crore)

	Category	No. of ration cards
1.	AAY	2.43
2.	BPL	8.53
3.	APL	13.27
	TOTAL :	24.23

Wheat/Rice/Coarsegrains @ 35 kg. per family per month are allotted for AAY ration card holders at an issue price Rs.3 per kg for rice, Rs.2 per kg. for wheat and Rs.1.50 per kg. for coarsegrains.

(d) At present Government is examining various aspects of the proposed National Food Security Act.

India's ranking in global hunger index

197. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranked 66 among 88 countries in the global hunger index of the recent repott of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to set up a Commission on Poverty Amelioration representing different shades of ideological opinions and examine all aspects mentioned in the FAO report in relation to India; and

(c) what remedial steps Government has taken so far or propose to take to remove hunger from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) In the Global Hunger Index released by the International Food Policy Research Institute in October, 2009, India has been ranked at number 65 out of 84 countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to improve food security and nutritional status of the people, Government is implementing various schemes/programmes. Government allocates foodgrains at subsidized prices to States and Union Territories under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35kg/family/month. Allocations for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are also made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in the Central Pool. Presently these allocations range between 10 to 35 kg/month/family in different States & Union Territories. Government also implements several other welfare schemes for different sections of society like Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS). which aims at improving the nutrition and health status of pre-school children in age group of 0-6 years as also pregnant women and nursing mothers, and mid-day-meal scheme for primary and upper primary school children in government, government-aided and local body schools in the country. Besides, several other schemes such as Annapoorna Scheme, Village Grains Banks Scheme. Emergency Feeding Programme in KBK districts of Orissa, Scheme for supply of foodgrains for hostels and welfare institutions, and Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) are also being implemented by various Central Ministries in partnership with State and Union Territory Governments.

Further, Government proposes to enact National Food Security Act as announced by Hon'ble President of India in her address to joint session of Parliament on 04.06.2009.

Futures trading in essential commodities

198. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to address the price rise and drought-related problems prevailing in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that futures trading in essential commodities is an important factor for price rise in the country; and